

Prometheus Bound

Post Fire Season 2006



State Engine 3-6-1 firefighter Kevin Bailey, Jr. on the Powerline Fire, Coronado National Forest.

Post Fire Season 2006

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Fire Season 2006

As many of you already know, the fire activity in 2006 was mostly in the mid to upper elevation areas of the State- the Pinyon-Juniper, Oak Woodland, Ponderosa Pine, and Mixed Conifer vegetation types. Some of the more notable fires were the February Fire (Tonto NF), the Potato Complex (A/S National Forests), the Romero Fire (Coronado NF), the Brins (Coconino NF), and the Tiger Rock (Prescott National Forest). Thanks to everyone who helped fight these challenging fires!

Summary of the 2006 Fire Season for the State (State and Private Land)

<i>Through 7/31/06</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>	<i>This Date 2005</i>	<i>10 Year Avg. 2005</i>
<i>Incidents</i>	490	608	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Acres</i>	8,066	99,068	22,841

Team Managed Fires in 2006 (Arizona Only)

<i>Incident Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>	<i>Cause</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>IMT</i>
<i>February</i>	USFS	SEZ	02/06	02/19	H	4,243	<i>Philbin</i>
<i>Burro</i>	USFS	SEZ	03/25	04/01	H	370	<i>Raley</i>
<i>North Taylor</i>	USFS	SEZ	05/18	05/27	L	177	<i>Raley</i>
<i>Romero</i>	USFS	SEZ	05/21	06/06	L	860	<i>Oltrogge</i>
<i>103</i>	USFS	SEZ	05/27	06/02	H	2,050	<i>Raley</i>
<i>La Barranta</i>	ST	AIFC	06/01	06/06	H	836	<i>Reinarz</i>
<i>Potato Complex</i>	USFS	WMZ	06/06	06/29	L	6,262	<i>Raley</i>
<i>Black Mtn. Complex</i>	BLM	AIFC	06/08	06/18	L	12,637	<i>Philbin</i>
<i>Warm</i>	USFS	GCZ	06/08	07/04	L	58,630	<i>Reinarz</i>
<i>Navajo Mtn. 1</i>	BIA	FLZ	06/10	<i>unknown</i>	L	5,151	<i>Oltrogge</i>
<i>Ranger 2</i>	BIA	GCZ	06/11	06/14	L	393	<i>Reinarz</i>
<i>Brins</i>	USFS	FLZ	06/18	06/30	U	4,317	<i>Broyles</i>
<i>Tiger Rock</i>	USFS	PFC	06/29	07/06	L	6,568	<i>Whitney</i>
<i>White Hills Complex</i>	BLM	AIFC	06/30	07/03	L	2,344	<i>Gohenn</i>

State Engines in Southern Arizona

State Engine 3-6-1- Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz Counties

State Engine 3-6-1, a Tucson District Type 6, had another successful season thanks to the efforts of all the participants. Due to the lack of winter precipitation, most of the fire activity in Southern Arizona occurred at the middle to high elevations. So, for the most part, Engine 3-6-1 assisted the Coronado National Forest with severity coverage and suppression response.



From May 21st through July 11th, Engine 3-6-1 was staffed with seasonal and full time State Land Department employees and fire department personnel. The engine had 25 individual participants, provided training opportunities for an ICT4, Engine Bosses, Advanced firefighters/squad bosses, and several brand new wildland firefighters. The engine responded to 4 fires during the time it was in service. The engine also assisted with a small prescribed burn on the Santa Rita Experimental Range. Engine 3-6-1 is currently on a fire assignment in Battle Mountain, Nevada.

Engine 3-6-1 on the Powerline Fire, Coronado NF

Thanks to all the participants on Engine 3-6-1! We look forward to having everyone back next fire season.

State Engine 3-6-2- Oracle and Pinal County

State Engine 3-6-2, another Tucson District Type 6, had a somewhat successful season thanks to the efforts of all the participants. The engine was pre-positioned in Oracle for Initial Attack response in Pinal County. From May 20th through the beginning of July, Engine 3-6-2 patrolled along the Highway 77 corridor and responded to several small roadside fires. Arizona State Land Department employees, firefighters from the Oracle Fire Department and other fire districts



Engines 3-6-1, 3-6-2, and 3-6-3 in Pinal County

helped staff the engine. Engine 3-6-2 is currently on a fire assignment in Southern Nevada.

Thanks to all the participants on Engine 3-6-2! The Division of Forestry looks forward to having everyone back next fire season.

State Engine 3-6-3- Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee Counties

State Engine 3-6-3, another Tucson District Type 6 Engine, had a successful first season in Cochise and Graham Counties. The engine began on May 17th and ended on July 3rd. It responded to 15 fires and provided training opportunities to 27 individuals from 11 different fire departments. Training opportunities were provided to three engine bosses and a number of brand new wildland firefighters.

A heartfelt thanks to all the participants on Engine 3-6-3! The Division of Forestry looks forward to having everyone back next fire season.



Jesse Grassman, the Engine Boss on Engine 3-6-3, makes weather observations on the SRER prescribed fire.

Out of State Forest Service Assignments- Significant Requirement

During the last several months, the Arizona State Forester's Office has been working with the USDA Forest Service, Region 3, to establish a system of direct reimbursement for the fire-related assistance provided to the Forest Service through the State. An agreement has been reached on a Direct Payment Program that will provide for direct payment from the Forest Service to fire department accounts and expedite much of the reimbursement.

Direct payments to cooperating fire departments from the Forest Service will be made for the following requests:

- 1. Requests for overhead, crews, and engines for out-of-state incidents ordered by the Southwest Coordination Center (SWCC) through the Arizona Interagency Fire Center (AIFC).*

2. Requests by (AIFC) or local Forest Service Dispatch Office with an agreement with the Division of Forestry for incidents on lands in Arizona for which the Forest Service has suppression responsibility.
3. Requests for severity resources requested by the Forest Service through the Division of Forestry based on a severity plan developed between local National Forests and Division of Forestry Districts.

In order to participate in out-of-state incidents, and in-state Forest Service incidents and severity assignments, your fire department must be signed up for direct reimbursement with the Forest Service and have the following:

1. An Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the State Land Department, Division of Forestry.
2. A Current Fire Rate Agreement.
3. A Dun and Bradstreet (DUN's) Number and a Central Contractor Registration (CCR) Number.
4. A direct deposit account with the U.S. Forest Service.

To obtain a DUN's number, call 1-866-705-5711. To register in CCR, go to ccr.gov and follow the instructions on the website. For assistance, contact the CCR assistance center at 1-888-227-2423 or 1-269-961-4725. **NOTE: You must have a DUNS number to register in CCR.**

Training Season 2006-2007

The 2006-2007 training season is just around the corner! If you have any suggestions for courses beyond S-130, S-190, S-290, S-230/231, and I-200, let your local Division of Forestry District know. Please review the new Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (April 2006) for changes in required and recommended course work associated with ICS positions. The Qualifications Guide can be viewed at www.nwccg.gov.

Minimum Experience Guidelines for Common ICS Positions

Effective November 22, 2005, the following standards are in effect for:

MINIMUM EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS GUIDE **FOR RED CARD STANDARDS CERTIFICATION** **Arizona State Land Department, Forestry Division**

General: The following descriptions are intended to provide agency personnel and fire department cooperators a guide to common operational and command experience needs up to a ICT3 level that are not specified in the NWCG 310-1 Wildland Fire Qualification Manual. Experience such as number of years, number of assignments, number of hours on the fireline, number of training evaluators, fuel types, and incident complexities are very important in the determining whether an individual is truly qualified.

Experience gained from participation in prescribed fire based projects may be accepted for up to 20% of the required fireline hours specified for the positions documented below.

A statewide red card committee made up of fire department representatives from across the State and State Forestry personnel review and approve State Forestry and Arizona FD personnel with qualifications at Strike Team Leader Trainee and above (and all Unit Leader Trainee and above in non operations positions). This committee uses this document as a guide for approval/disapproval.

Using this Guide: The guide lists common fire department wildland training positions with prerequisites listed under each heading. The current NWCG 310-1 Manual must also be consulted for further information.

Engine Boss (ENGB) Example: Starting as a new FFT2, to become a qualified engine boss, a person will need a minimum of 420 hours of fireline experience: 120 hours as a qualified firefighter (FFT2), + 120 hours as an advanced firefighter trainee (FFT1t), + 60 hours as a qualified advance firefighter (FFT1), + 120 hours as an engine boss trainee. Other listed requirements of courses, fitness, incident management levels, fuel types, and # of evaluators also apply.

Other administrative suggestions:

- Be sure to maintain not only training certificates, but also fire experience records for each of your wildland personnel. Many fire departments fail to keep these experience records which are required for both advancement and currency requirements. Experience records should include: Fire name, fire number, fire size, jurisdiction, dates on the fire, position(s) performed on fire, fuel types, and fire management level. The red cards now have spaces on them to record this information.
- Consider developing an in-house or multi-agency red card committee to review training and experience record before qualifying a candidate in a higher wildland position.
- The National Wildland Fire Qualification Guide Manual (#310-1) is available for download at www.nwcg.gov.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER (FFT2):

Fitness Rating

Arduous

Experience

None

Required Training

Intro to ICS I-100

Basic Wildland Firefighting S-130

Basic Fire Behavior S-190

Annual Fire Refresher

Skill and Knowledge Training (If needed)

None

FFT2 Task Book (on the job training) Completion Requirements

1 Evaluator

Completed during class.

ADVANCED WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER (FFT1)

Required Training

Advanced Firefighter Training S-131

Annual Fire Refresher

Skill and Knowledge Training (If needed)

Portable Pumps & Water Use S-211

Powersaws S-212

Fitness Rating

Arduous

Experience prior to starting FFT1 taskbook:
120 fireline (half must be hotline) hours as a **qualified** FFT2
to include the following assignments:

2 Type 1, 2, or 3 Incidents

3 Type 4 or 5 Incidents

1 grass/desert/chaparral fuel type

1 timber fuel type

1 urban interface

FFT1 Task Book Completion Requirements

120 hours fireline (half must be hotline) hours.

3 evaluators

3 incidents

2 fuel types

ENGINE BOSS (ENGB)

Required Training

Crew Boss S-230

Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior S-290
Annual Fire Refresher

Skill and Knowledge Training (If needed)

Basic ICS I-200
Engine Boss S-231
Ignition Operations S-234
Interagency Business Management S-260
Basic Air Operations S-270
Followship to Leadership L-280

Fitness Rating

Arduous

Experience prior to starting ENGB taskbook:

60 fireline (half must be hotline) hours as a **qualified** FFT1 to include the following assignments:

2 Type 1, 2, or 3 Incidents
1 Type 4 or 5 Incident
1 grass/desert/chaparral fuel type
1 timber fuel type
1 urban interface

ENGB Task Book Completion Requirements

120 fireline (half must be hotline) hours.
3 evaluators
3 incidents
2 fuel types

ENGINE STRIKE TEAM LEADER (STEN)

Required Training

Fire Operations in the Urban Interface S-215
Task Force/Strike Team Leader S-330
Annual Fire Refresher

Skill and Knowledge Training (If needed)

Intermediate ICS I-300
Fireline Leadership L-380
Tactics S-336

Fitness Rating

Arduous

Experience prior to starting STEN taskbook:

120 fireline (half must be hotline) hours as a **qualified** ENGB
to include the following assignments:

2 Type 1 or 2 or 3 Incidents
1 grass/desert/chaparral fuel type
1 timber fuel type
1 urban interface

STEN Task Book Completion Requirements

120 fireline (half must be hotline) hours.

3 evaluators

3 incidents

2 fuel types

TASK FORCE LEADER (TFLD)

Required Training

Fire Behavior Calculations S-390

Annual Fire Refresher

Skill and Knowledge Training (If needed)

Fireline Leadership L-380

Experience prior to starting TFLD taskbook:

60 fireline (half must be hotline) hours as qualified STEN

TFLD Task Book Completion Requirements

60 fireline (half must be hotline) hours

2 evaluators

STRUCTURE PROTECTION SPECIALIST (STPS)

Required Training

Fire Operations in the Urban Interface (S-215)

Annual Fire Refresher

Skill and Knowledge Training (If needed)

Hazardous Materials First Responder

Building Construction

Experience prior to starting STPS (State of Az) taskbook

Fully **qualified** as STEN

STPS Task Book Completion Requirements

2 Type 1 or 2 Incidents with urban interface

2 evaluators

INCIDENT COMMANDER TYPE 4 (ICT4)

Required Training

Initial Attack IC S-200

Fire Operations in the Urban Interface (S-215)

Annual Fire Refresher

Skill and Knowledge Training (If needed)

Initial Attack IC S-200

Tactics S-336

Experience prior to starting ICT4 taskbook:

80 fireline (half must be hotline) hours as a **qualified** ENGB
to include the following assignments:

- 1 Type 1 or 2 Incidents
- 1 Type 3 Incident
- 1 Type 4 or 5 Incident
- 1 grass/desert/chaparral fuel type
- 1 timber fuel type 1 urban interface

ICT4 Task Book Completion Requirements

60 fireline (half must be hotline) hours.
3 evaluators
3 incidents
2 fuel types

INCIDENT COMMANDER TYPE 3 (ICT3)

Required Training

Incident Commander Extended Attack S-300
Fire Behavior Calculations S-390
Annual Fire Refresher

Skills and Knowledge Training (If needed)

None

Experience prior to starting ICT3 taskbook:

Qualified at both a ICT4 and TFLD **or**
ICT4 + Strike Team Leader (any) + 2 Single Resource Boss (any 2)

ICT3 Task Book Completion Requirements

120 fireline hours
3 evaluators
3 incidents (2 must be uncontained)
2 fuel types

Fireline Hours = Actual time on fireline (not travel time to fire or off duty time in camp).

Hotline = Actual time on fireline prior to containment (not travel time to fire or off duty time in camp).

Safety Advisory: Extreme Fire Behavior (July 20th, 2006)

This summer, the National Incident Management Situation Report has consistently reported “extreme fire behavior”, “very active fire behavior”, “active fire behavior” or “rapid rates of spread” on large fires in many different geographic areas. Obviously, these same conditions are occurring daily on numerous smaller initial and extended attack fires in the same areas.

Rapid rates of spread, torching, crowning, running, and long range spotting have been observed on many fires. Based on fire danger indices, the potential for extreme fire behavior exists during the coming weeks with periods of hot, dry conditions forecasted.

Fuel Conditions of Concern include:

- Very heavy and now cured fine fuel loadings in many locations.*
- Continuity of fuels, especially in grass and shrub regimes.*
- Extremely low live and dead fuel moisture values. Well below historical levels for this time of year in some locations.*
- Extensive areas of bug-killed or frost damaged vegetation.*

Many locations in recent weeks have seen extended periods of higher than average daytime temperatures coupled with low relative humidity readings and periods of strong wind. Forecasts indicate above normal temperatures over much of the west for the remainder of the summer season. All of these conditions, coupled with local topographic effects, may combine to produce rapid rates of spread and extreme fire behavior. The NWCG members request that all Operations and Aviation Resources who may be assigned to wildland fire incidents be oriented to the key messages from this safety advisory to assist them in preparing for assignments in which they may be exposed to extreme fire behavior.

Wildland firefighters can mitigate the risks posed by these hazardous conditions in a variety of ways. These include:

- Maintain constant vigilance. Remember, most fires are innocent in appearance before unexpected shifts in wind direction and or speed results in flare-up or extreme fire behavior.*
- Look up, look down, look around! A firefighter who has situational awareness is a safe firefighter.*
- Practice LCES at all times: Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones. You’ve studied them well- put them into practice.*

- *Use the Safety Zone Guidelines found on page 7 of the Incident Response Pocket Guide. Be extremely cautious when working in areas with potential for re-burn.*
- *Pay attention to what your fire is doing, how it responds to changing conditions, and anticipate how fire behavior will change throughout the day.*
- *Closely observe the fuels in the area where you're working. Remember that fine, flashy fuels respond very quickly to changes in environmental conditions.*
- *Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts. Stay attuned to the fire environment so that you notice the little, incremental changes in addition to the big sudden wind shifts.*
- *Develop an understanding of local conditions, especially if you are in an area unfamiliar to you. Demand a thorough briefing before engaging the fire.*
- *Monitor your health and well-being and that of your co-workers. Drink plenty of water to maintain your hydration level and monitor fatigue. Fatigue, dehydration and stress impair situational awareness. Take countermeasures as needed.*
- *Use Personal Protective Equipment. It was designed for your use and issued to you for your protection; it doesn't work if worn improperly or not carried.*

Leaders of wildland firefighters have special responsibilities:

- *Maintain command and control. As stated in the Standard Firefighting Orders, "Give clear instructions and ensure they are understood." and "Maintain control of your forces at all times."*
- *Employ your subordinates in accordance with their capabilities. Consider team experience, fatigue and physical limitations when accepting assignments.*
- *Keep your subordinates informed. Provide accurate and timely briefings.*
- *Use the Risk Management Process identified in the Incident Response Pocket Guide. It will help you make good risk decisions.*

Information on national and geographic area fire season outlook products can be found on the National Predictive Services Outlook Page at www.nifc.gov/information.html

A long, hot and active fire season is still ahead of us in many parts of the country. Pay attention to firefighting basics. The most important resource on the fire is you.

New URL For State Forestry Website!!

The Division of Forestry website has a new URL!

The old URL was:

www.azstatefire.org

The new URL is:

www.azsf.az.gov

Some of the information available on the Arizona Division of Forestry website:

*Wildland Fire Training
Fire Intelligence Updates
Arizona Fire Map
Red Card Committee Information
GSA Catalog and Order Form
Grant Information*

New AD Rates for Volunteer Fire Departments

For wildland fire purposes, the old structural classifications "firefighter", "engineer" and "officer" will no longer be used. Instead the Arizona State Division of Forestry will use the new AD rates:

*FFT2(Wildland Firefighter)- \$13.00 AD "C"
FFT1(Advanced Firefighter)- \$14.40 AD "D"
ENGB (Engine Boss)- \$17.28 AD "F"*

Please visit the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's website for more information on the Revised AD Plan and New Rates:

www.nwccg.gov

Six Firefighters Injured in Burnover in Nevada

Synopsis Released on July 26th, 2006 10:30 a.m.

Six wildland firefighters from an Eldorado National Forest hotshot crew were injured late Tuesday afternoon during a wildland fire burnover. The crew was assigned to the New York Peak Fire northwest of Winnemucca, Nevada, when the burnover occurred at approximately 5 p.m.

Three of the injured firefighters were flown by helicopter from the incident to the Humboldt General Hospital in Winnemucca. Two of these firefighters were subsequently flown by fixed wing aircraft to the Lion's Burn Care Center at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. The third injured firefighter was treated and released from the hospital in Winnemucca. The remaining three injured firefighters were driven to the hospital in Winnemucca, where they were treated and released.

The Eldorado National Forest is located near Placerville, California.

A federal interagency serious accident investigation team is scheduled to arrive in Winnemucca Wednesday afternoon to conduct a review of the incident. "Whenever injuries such as these occur during firefighting operations, a top priority is to learn everything we can about them so that we can work to prevent similar incidents in the from happening again," said BLM Nevada State Fire Management Officer Rex McKnight.

According to preliminary reports, the burnover occurred during burnout operations. The fire was started by lightning at approximately 6:25 p.m. on Monday. The New York Peak Fire was reassigned to the Jim Thomas Type 2 Incident Management Team at 10 p.m. Tuesday.

The fire [was] burning at the south end of the Pine Forest Range in juniper, mountain mahogany, sagebrush and cheatgrass 65 miles northwest of Winnemucca, and has exhibited extreme fire conditions in rough terrain. The fire is located in a wilderness study area with limited vehicle access. There are 109 firefighters assigned to the fire.

The crew [was] taken off the fire pending investigation into the incident. Preliminary reports indicate that more than 6,000 acres [were] burned by the New York Peak Fire.

Scorpio Fire Entrapment in Utah

Expanded 72 Hour Report for the Scorpio Fire Entrapment- July 31st, 2006

The following report is the Expanded 72 hour report for the incident involving two firefighters entrapped during burnout operations on the Scorpio Fire. This report contains information from the preliminary report previously given on the NFES 0869 as well as additional details regarding the incident. This report is a preliminary report and is subject to change. The final report will follow within 45 days.

Personnel entrapped on the Scorpio Fire

Greg Vander Werff- Shelter was deployed. Injury was a second degree burn to left arm/elbow.

Fred Alldredge- Entrapped on fire, no shelter deployment, no injuries.

Introduction

On June 30th, 2006 two firefighters from the BLM Salt Lake Helitack Crew were entrapped while conducting a backfire operation on the Scorpio Fire in the Hog Up Mountains, Box Elder County, Utah. One member of the crew felt it necessary to deploy his shelter for protection and the other sought refuge in a wash from the smoke and embers. The crewmember that deployed his shelter was treated for a second degree burn on his left elbow.

The Scorpio Fire was under the jurisdiction of the Salt Lake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Salt Lake Field Office in conjunction with the Utah State Office initiated the investigation regarding the entrapment. The investigation team collected information from a site visit, data collected and individual interviews with personnel involved with the incident.

Narrative

Salt Lake Helitack was dispatched to the Scorpio Fire on the afternoon of June 30th with 4 crew members and pilot on board helicopter 1BH. The crew arrived at the advancing fire front, flying from a southern direction and continued north over the fire to the heel. The crew estimated the fire to be over 1,000 acres at that time. Upon arrival, the fire was noted to be making a good run from the northeast to the southwest. 1BH sat down on the northeast end of the fire, dropping off two crewmembers which initiated a backfire from the road. Helicopter 1BH then proceeded with the remaining crewmembers to the heel of the fire where they tied in with engines from the Volunteer Fire Department. One crewmember, an ICT4 Trainee stayed with the volunteer engines to direct and assist the activities at the

heel and west flank of the fire. The ICT4 on the fire stayed with helicopter 1BH to continue the recon.

At approximately 1800 hours, additional resources from the BLM Salt Lake Field Office arrived on scene at the north end of the fire to aid in suppression activities. At this time the fire began to exhibit extreme fire behavior as a result of strong downdraft winds associated with a thunder cell tracking over the fire. Firing operations were compromised due to the changing weather conditions. Upon arrival, Engine 438 was sent along the east flank in order to aid with the backfire, but was unable to reach the two helitack crewmembers because of the extreme fire behavior and lack of visibility. The crewmembers conducting backfire operations on the east flank experienced a strong wind shift that carried the fire across the road. Firing operations were suspended and the two crewmembers tried to rendezvous in the black. Due to high wind conditions and reduced visibility, they were unable to meet. Because of the extreme fire behavior, one crewmember took shelter in a small wash within the black and endured the event with his pack turned into the wind and shroud in place. The other crewmember deployed his shelter beside the road in a narrow strip of black created from the firing operation. While in the shelter, the crewmember received a burn on his left elbow.

As the front passed, the two helicopter crewmembers located each other and were joined by Engine 438 at the shelter deployment site. As this time, the Type III IC arrived on scene and ordered all resources to gather at the heel of the fire.

Preliminary factual findings

The following findings were noted as contributing factors leading up to and determining the outcome of the entrapment on the Scorpio Fire. These findings will be discussed in detail within the Final Report.

- Inadequate weather information obtained and distributed during suppression activities.
- Incomplete briefing.
- LCES not in place.
- Ineffective use of resources.
- Overhead engaging in suppression activities neglected primary oversight duties.
- Fire experienced extreme wind event from passing thunder cell.
- Effective use of shelter training and PPE during deployment.

Mop Up- Images from the Santa Rita Experimental Range Prescribed Fire



Initial Briefing being conducted by the Burn Boss, Shane Lyman.



The plots burned consisted of Lehmann's lovegrass and Mesquite.



Firefighters from Engine 3-6-1 cold trail one of the plots on Day One of the prescribed fire.



High fire intensity evident on day two of the prescribed fire.



Ignition Operations begin on Day One of the Prescribed Fire.



Firefighters from Engine 3-6-1, Warren Neff, Kevin McKay, and Lee Antonides, (from left to right), wait for slopovers and spot fires.